



# HOUSE BILL 485: UNC & CC Credit/National Gd on SAD.

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - Universities. If favorable, re-refer to Education - Community Colleges	<b>Date:</b>	April 11, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. G. Martin, Szoka, Grange	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Drupti Chauhan
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 485 would direct the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the State Board of Community Colleges to adopt a uniform policy to ensure that National Guard Service Members are not academically penalized when they are placed on State active duty status during an academic term.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S399, as introduced by Sens. Britt, J. Jackson, which is currently in Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate.]

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 485 would direct the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina (UNC BOG) and the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to each adopt a uniform policy to ensure that National Guard Service Members are not academically penalized when they are placed on State active duty status during an academic term. These policies would apply to all enrolled students in a UNC constituent institution or North Carolina community college who are National Guard Service Members. These students must be given an excused absence for the period of time they are on active duty.

The UNC BOG and SBCC policies must also provide all of the following for these students:

- Opportunities to make up tests or other work missed during the excused absence.
- Options, when feasible, to continue classes and coursework during the academic term through online participation for the period of the active duty.
- Options to receive a temporary grade of "incomplete" or "absence from the final exam" for any course the student was not able to complete because of being placed on State active duty status. The student must complete the course requirements within a time period specified by the constituent institution or community college
- Ability to drop, with no penalty, any course that the student was unable to complete because of being placed on State active duty status.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The policies must be adopted by the UNC BOG and the SBCC by July 1, 2017 and the UNC constituent institutions and the community colleges must implement the policies beginning with the fall 2017 academic term.

**BACKGROUND:** The UNC Policy Manual (700.7.1[R]) provides that campuses must develop policies to permit students in the military to withdraw from courses at any time and without academic penalty if the withdrawal is because of their military service. Campuses must also have policies in place to allow for refund of tuition, fees, and other expenses because of being called to active duty. The regulation provides that campuses must have transcript notations for withdrawal for active or reserve military

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578

# House Bill 485

*Page 2*

service and these withdrawals cannot count in the calculation of GPAs or tuition surcharges. In regard to academic credit, the military students may receive an "incomplete" for the class or complete coursework by other means when possible such as online completion, testing out early, or making other arrangements with faculty members. Finally, the regulation directs campuses to allow deferral of enrollment, leaves of absence, and readmissions options for students called to active military duty.

Policy 1E SBCCC 99.4 in the SBCC Code directs each community college to grant a full refund of tuition and registration fees to military reserve and National Guard personnel called to active duty or active duty personnel who have received reassignments that make it impossible to finish their course requirements. The community colleges are also directed to use distance learning technologies and other methodologies (to the extent possible) to assist active duty military students complete their course requirements.